IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
ACTING AS THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

Applicant (for US): Peter Matthewson   )
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Application No.: PCT/GB00/03171   )
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Docket No.: FNL6318P0020US)

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
UPON ENTRY INTO NATIONAL STAGE

Box PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

You are requested to amend claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, and 23, so that claims 1 through 23 read as follows:

1. An information carrier comprising a plurality of detectable elements supported by, or incorporated in a substrate, the elements being spaced apart from one another such that the series of spaces between the elements encodes the information carrier, characterised in that each of the spaces can be represented by $A + mG$, wherein A is a first fixed value, G is a second fixed value and m is an integer (which may be zero) the values of which are derived from the integers of a predetermined mathematical sequence, and wherein the value of A is different to the value of G.

2. An information carrier comprising a plurality of detectable elements supported by, or incorporated in a substrate, the elements being spaced apart from one another such that the series of spaces between the elements encodes the information carrier, characterized in that each of the spaces can be represented by $A + mG$, wherein A is a first fixed value, G is a second fixed value and m is an integer (which may be zero) the values of which are derived by means of a random number generator, and wherein the value of A is different to the value of G.

3. An information carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the values of the integer m are selected to be integers derived from the output of a de Bruijn sequence.